# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3476
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2008
SLOW PROGRESS IN DETECTING TB CASES
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**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the WHO has found India's slow progress in detecting tuberculosis (TB) cases in its recent report on Global Tuberculosis Control as reported in the 'Times of India' dated March, 19, 2008;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether tuberculosis still remain the largest single cause for deaths in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of persons died from tuberculosis during the last two years, year-wise;

(e) whether a large number of persons are unaware that they suffer from tuberculosis and are spreading the disease among healthy individuals; and

(f) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) As per WHO report, there has been progress globally towards TB control targets including in India.The report carried data pertaining to year 2006.Though the absolute number of cases detected and initiated on treatment have shown an increase,however,the rate of this increase has been slower than previous year.In 2006,India detected 66% of the estimated new infectious cases,in 2007,70% of such cases have been detected thus achieving the global target of case detection.This 2007 data will be reported to WHO in the year 2008 and will be carried in the WHO global report 2009.

(c) & (d) No, Sir.Tuberculosis is not the single largest cause of death in India.

(e) & (f) Studies on accessibility and utilization of RNTCP services and KAP studies (Knowledge, Attitude, Practices) indicate that awareness level has increased among people.

Advocacy, Communication, Social Mobilization (ACSM) is an important component of the programme focusing on awareness generation, patient counseling and motivation for patients to complete treatment under supervision. These activities have been decentralized and communication material has been developed and also available at RNTCP website for adaptation in the field.Media campaigns at the national level are undertaken with the support of Prasar Bharti and other channels to create awareness about the services. Designated persons have been provided in the states and districts to undertaken communication and social mobilization activities in the field.

The program also involves NGOs and other civil society organization and private health care providers to reach out to larger section of society. RNTCP is also involving community based organizations, Self Help Groups (SHGs) to provide services nearest to the patent's home,and also for ensuring compliance and treatment completion.